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SUBJECT: UNSC: COUNCIL AGREES ON ELEMENTS FOR PRESIDENCY TO READ TO PRESS ON SITUATION IN HEBRON

REF: JERUSALEM 2198

¶1. (SBU) In consultations late on December 5, the Security Council agreed not to meet formally in response to requests by the Palestinians through the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab Group for a Council meeting on recent settler violence in the Hebron area of the West Bank. In lieu of a meeting, Council members agreed to a U.S.-proposal to have the Council President (Croatia) read out elements of the discussion to the press, which were drafted by USUN and coordinated in advance with the Israeli and Libyan delegations.

¶2. (SBU) During the consultations, the Libyan Perm Rep spoke first about the reasons for holding a meeting but noted after the U.S. intervention that a statement, such as the one proposed by the U.S., would be acceptable. Ambassador Wolff spoke next on our understanding of the events in Hebron and proposed the draft oral remarks. Every Council member subsequently spoke in favor of the U.S./Libya draft language, with only the Russian DPR suggesting additional language on a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East but said he would join consensus on the original draft language. The Croatian Presidency then gavelled consensus on the oral remarks.

¶3. (U) The Security Council President read the following remarks at the press stakeout after the consultations:
"The members of the Security Council welcomed Israel's evacuation of settlers from the compound in Hebron on December 4. Council members condemned the resulting settler violence, including against Palestinian civilians and property. Council members urge respect for the rule of law without discrimination or exception and welcomed the efforts of the Israeli and Palestinian security services to restore calm. Council members encourage Israel and the Palestinian Authority to continue their security cooperation in the Hebron Governorate."
Khahilzad